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PATENT, TRADEMARK, COPYRIGHT
AND UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW
AND RELATED LITIGATION

EDMUND P. WOOD 1923-1988
TRUMAN A. HERRON 1935-1976
EDWARD B. EVANS 1938-1971

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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO: Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents

FROM: Steven W. Benintendi, Esq.

DATE: October 25, 2005

RE: Serial Number 10/709,698
Filed: May 24, 2004
Applicant: Randy S. Reed
Title: **AUTOMOTIVE INTERIOR
TRIM ASSEMBLY AND PAD
INSERTION**
Our Ref. MASL-42

FAX NO.: 1-571-273-8300

TOTAL PAGES: 4 (including cover sheet)

MESSAGE/COMMENTS: OFFICIAL

Attached please find Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Entry of the document is requested. No fee is believed due, but if one is due, the Office is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Thank you.

Steven W. Benintendi
Steven W. Benintendi, Esq.
Reg. No. 56,297

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Steven W. Benintendi
Steven W. Benintendi, Reg. No. 56,297

October 25, 2005
Date

Applicant: Randy S. Reed
Serial No. 10/709,698
Filing Date: May 24, 2004
Art Unit: 3612
Examiner: Stephen T. Gordon
Title: AUTOMOTIVE INTERIOR TRIM ASSEMBLY AND PAD
INSERTION
Conf. No.: 3697
Atty Docket: MASL-42

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

October 25, 2005

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
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COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicant's undersigned counsel notes the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached with the Notice of Allowability. The reasons set forth by the Examiner refer only to some of the features in independent claims 1 and 9 and are not the only reasons that all of the claims are allowable.

With respect to independent claim 1, the prior art does not disclose or suggest an automotive interior trim assembly comprising a substrate member forming at least part of a structural support of the trim assembly; a flexible skin overlying at least a

portion of said substrate member and coupled to said substrate member, said flexible skin and said substrate member defining a cavity having an opening; a back plate mounted to said substrate member for covering said cavity opening; and a resilient foam pad contained within a pouch and positioned within said cavity to provide a soft feel to the trim assembly, said foam pad insertable in said cavity when said foam pad is in a compressed state, said foam pad adapted to expand so as to substantially fill said cavity. Dependent claims 2-8 ultimately depend from claim 1. Accordingly, each of claims 2-8 is believed to be allowable based upon claim 1 and upon other features recited in claims 2-8 but not discussed herein.

With respect to independent claim 9, the prior art does not disclose or suggest an automotive door trim assembly, comprising an interior door trim panel adapted to be secured to an automobile door; and an armrest assembly comprising a substrate member forming at least part of a structural support of said armrest assembly and mounted to said interior door trim panel; a flexible skin overlying at least a portion of said substrate member and coupled to said substrate member, said flexible skin and said substrate member defining a cavity having an opening; a back plate mounted to said substrate member for covering said cavity opening; and a resilient foam pad contained within a pouch and positioned within said cavity to provide a soft feel to the trim assembly, said foam pad insertable in said cavity when said foam pad is in a compressed state, said foam pad adapted to expand so as to substantially fill said cavity.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of these comments, he is respectfully requested to provide further explanation on the record.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due in connection with this submission. However, if such petition is due or any fees are necessary, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to deposit account 23-3000.

Respectfully Submitted,
WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.

By Steven W. Benintendi
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